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ELGIN COURIER-NEWS

Elgin family rebuilds, a second time, after fire

Gloria Casas / The Courier-News

Tyrone Srother lived at the Division Street home that caught fire early Tuesday. He helped rescue two young neighbors from the fire. He and his family, including five children, were left homeless after the building was red tagged.

By GLORIA CASAS | For the Naperville Sun

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and let them into their smoke damaged home in the 300 block of Division St. in Elgin.

The family is trying to find a new home or replace everything they lost in a fire early Tuesday.

It is the second time in Crawford's life that she has to rebuild after a fire. Her family of seven lost everything in a Bronx, New York, electrical fire about 18 months ago, she said. Crawford and Srother moved their five children to Elgin after living in a shelter for about a year. She has relatives in Elgin.

The family moved into the Division Street home in April, Crawford said.

"It's hard, we just literally got everything together," she said.

It was shortly after midnight that fire broke out in the upstairs apartment. Srother heard the two young neighbors, Lucas Bishop, 14, and his brother, Kyle, 12, in a stairway and helped them escape the fire, Crawford said.

"He helped them and I pulled them inside and got my five kids out," Crawford said. "He went back to help the girls but it was too late," she said, adding the fire had quickly spread.

The Bishop boys' sisters, Katrina, 19, and Lindsay, 16, had run back into their room to call firefighters and broke some windows to try to escape. Firefighters found the two standing on a narrow windowsill and rescued them.

Both families were left with nothing and without a home.

Crawford and Srother have received help from community groups, churches and the Elgin Community Crisis Center. Congregation Kneseth Israel, next door to the burned out home, raised donations for the family. A GoFundMe account, https://www.gofundme.com/was-in-a-fire-need-help?ssid=848867236&pos=1, has been set up.

Crawford said the family could not afford renter's insurance. She said she appreciates all the help from the community.

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Courier-News reporter Mike Danahey contributed.

Gloria Casas is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

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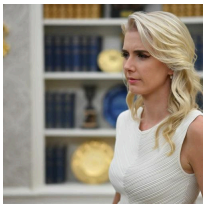

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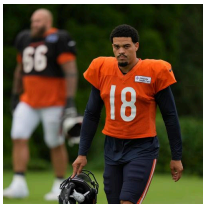

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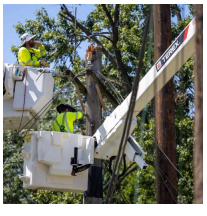

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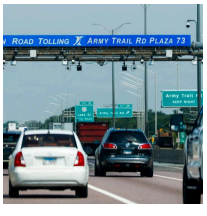

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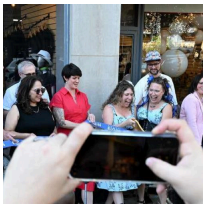

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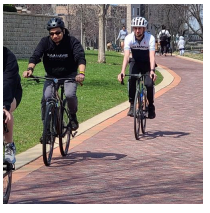

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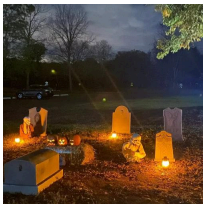

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